

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DRC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 ACDA-12 /081 W
-----042629 151102Z /10/20

R 121659Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7079
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TEGUCIGALPA 2023
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (MRN 3129 VICE 3429)

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, PGOV, NU
SUBJECT: POPE CALLS FOR CHURCH-STATE DIALOG

1. THE 10 JULY NOVEDADES CARRIED AN ARTICLE ENTITLED, "IT IS NECESSARY TO DIALOG WITH THE AUTHORITIES, SAYS PAUL VI TO NICARAGUAN BISHOPS." NOVEDADES LIMITED ITS EDITORIAL COMMENT STATING THAT, "BECAUSE OF ITS EMINENTLY CONCILIATORY CONTENT", THE PAPER REPRODUCED THE TEXT OF THE PAPAL STATEMENT.

2. THE MOST IMPORTANT POLITICAL ASPECTS OF THE POPE'S MESSAGE WERE HIS REFERENCE TO THE NEED FOR A CHURCH-STATE DIALOG WHICH WILL PERMIT THE CHURCH TO PLAY A GUIDING ROLE IN RESOLVING NICARAGUA'S CURRENT TROUBLES, AND HIS CALL TO NICARAGUAN BISHOPS TO MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE PAPAL NUNCIO AND TO COORDINATE THEIR EFFORTS WITH HIM.

3. RELEVANT PARTS OF THE TEXT ARE TRANSLATED BELOW. "WE HAVE
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NOT FORGOTTEN, IN EFFECT, THE COMPLEX PROBLEMS WHICH THREATEN THE CHURCH AND CIVIL SOCIETY IN YOUR COUNTRY. THIS REQUIRES A VIGILANT ATTENTION ON YOUR PART TO BE ABLE ALWAYS TO GIVE AN OPPORTUNE ECCLESIASTICAL WORD WHICH PRUDENTLY GUIDES YOUR FAITHFUL ALONG THE JUST PATH AND AVOIDS LESS CONSTRUCTIVE STANCES REGARDING ECCLESIASTICAL AND SOCIAL MATTERS. TO BETTER OBTAIN THESE OBJECTIVES, IT WILL BE OF GREAT ASSISTANCE (TO DEVELOP) A

CORDIAL UNITY AND COHESION OF EFFORTS ON THE PART OF THE SEE
IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE PONTIFICAL REPRESENTATIVE, WHOSE
GENUINE SPIRIT OF CHURCH SERVICE WE HOPE WILL FIND AMPLE OUTLET
IN YOUR COUNTRY."

4."ALL THIS WILL FAVOR YOU ALSO IN THE HOUR OF INITIATING AN
OPEN AND CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOG WITH THE CIVIL AUTHORITIES WITHIN
(A FRAMEWORK) OF RESPECT FOR MUTUAL RIGHTS AND COMPETENCE,
FAITHFUL TO BE IMMUTABLE DEMANDS OF THE PASTORAL MISSIONARY AND
WITH THE DESIRE FOR THE NATION TO AVOID MORE PAINFUL AND DIFFICULT
MOMENTS. ...WE ALSO EXHORT YOU TO REDOUBLE YOUR EFFORTS, AND THOSE
OF YOUR COLLABORATORS, TO BE AWARE OF THE EXPECTATIONS OF YOUR
FAITHFUL WHO DESIRE ABOVE ALL THAT WHICH ONLY THE CHURCH CAN
GIVE THEM: THE INTERNAL STRENGTH TO LIVE AN AUTHENTICALLY
CHRISTIAN LIFE, WHICH DOES NOT REJECT THE PRESENT REALITIES,
BUT WHICH ALWAYS REMAINS OPEN TO THE SUPERNATURAL AND IN COM-
PLETE FULFILLMENT WITH THE HEREAFTER."

5. COMMENT: THIS SPEECH WAS DELIVERED ON 8 MAY DURING THE COURSE OF T
HE

AD LIMINA APOSTOLORUM VISIT TO ROME OF THE NICARAGUAN BISHOPS.
THE SPEECH HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY BEEN RELEASED HERE BY THE CHURCH,
POSSIBLY BECAUSE OF THE STRONG CALL FOR DIALOG WHICH IS ANATHEMA
TO VIRTUALLY ALL OPPONENTISTS AT THE MOMENT. NOVEDADES PICKED UP
THE SPEDCH FROM THE L'SOSSEVATORE ROMANO, SPANISH EDITION.

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THE CALL FOR COOPERATIVE ACTION BETWEEN THE NICARAGUAN CHURCH
AND THE PAPAL NUNCIO PRESUMABLY RESULTS FROM THE FACT THE ARCHBISHOP
HAS THE IMAGE OF BEING LIBERAL AND ANTI-SOMOZA WHEREAS THE NUNCIO
HAS A REPUTATION AS CONSERVATIVE AND ANTI-COMMUNIST WHICH TRANSLATES
IN SOME MINDS INTO PRO-SOMOZA. EMB READS THIS MESSAGE PARTLY AS
URGING THE BISHOPS TO LISTEN MORE TO THE NUNCIO.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POPE, TEXT, LOBBYING, CHURCH STATE RELATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MANAGU03129
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780290-0956
Format: TEL
From: MANAGUA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780770/aaaacgnl.tel
Line Count: 101
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8e664977-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2039862
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POPE CALLS FOR CHURCH-STATE DIALOG
TAGS: PINS, PGOV, NU, (PAUL VI, POPE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8e664977-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014